

## **Great Lakes Region**

### **Saginaw Bay Watershed Conservation Partnership**

Lead partner: The Nature Conservancy

Saginaw Bay, an embayment of Lake Huron, hosts the largest coastal wetland in Lake Huron and faces numerous water quality challenges, including loss of habitat, excessive nutrients and sediment, and algal blooms. This project will set ecologically relevant implementation goals, track progress using new online tools, and harness the influence of agribusiness as a complementary delivery mechanism in order to reach goals of treating acres with conservation practices through EQIP and restoring acres of wetlands through ACEP by 2019. The partners will track effectiveness using the Great Lakes Watershed Management System to quantify acres implemented and total sediment and nutrients reduced annually while also working with project partners to monitor long-term trends in fish community health.

### **Tri-State Western Lake Erie Basin Phosphorus Reduction Initiative**

Lead partner: Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development

A diverse team of partners will use a targeted approach to identify high-priority sub-watersheds for phosphorus reduction and increase farmer access to public and private technical assistance—including innovative demonstrations of practices that NRCS does not yet cover—in Michigan, Ohio, and Indiana. Identified actions are coordinated with the Ohio Phosphorus Task Force Report and will move Lake Erie toward goals developed in the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement Annex 4 Nutrient Strategies. The partners will gauge success and monitor results using project-wide water quality monitoring and watershed modeling conducted by national experts from multiple scientific entities and institutions.